



Stockbridge

Primary and Pre-school



Newsletter 14

27 March 2020

Unusual times

It feels so strange to be sitting in school writing this newsletter with only 5 children and 2 teachers in! So many of you have written lovely messages to us about how you're getting on or thanking us for how we've dealt with this unprecedented situation, it's really very kind, thank you.

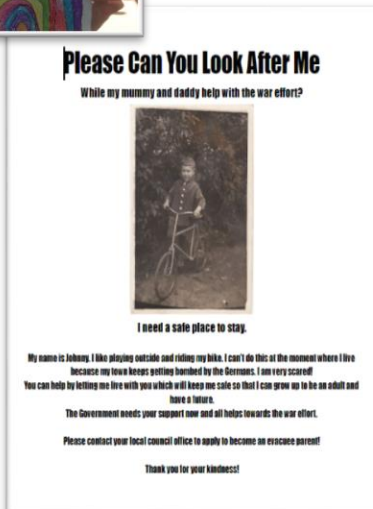
We could easily focus on the negatives of such a situation but I hope that what it does is strengthen our community and make us realise just how lucky we are to have what we do.

I know that many of you will have found it hard to explain to children on Tuesday morning about the lockdown; why they can't play with their friends or if, while they're out on their daily exercise, we have to stay so far apart from other people. It's a hard concept for children to get their heads around, even at 11 years old, let alone our tinies in pre-school, some aged just 2 and a bit.

I have watched the children's entries and photos and work with interest as they've appeared on Class Dojo, Tapestry and Google classroom and it's struck me just how hard many of them are trying to complete work, have a routine and a sense of normality. I'm sure that you as parents are seeking this too and I'm sure it's not always as lovely or easy as it appears but I do hope you're managing to find some time to truly enjoy having your children at home with you and for them to spend time deciding how and where they learn.

Thank you for your efforts and support thus far, together, we can make it!

Mrs Jefferies
Headteacher



Some examples of the brilliant work that's gone on this week in all classes and pre-school.

See the next page to see a great example of keeping friendships going – Luke is on Google Meet with Zack and they're taking it in turns to read their guided reading text. A little ingenuity goes a long way!

Well done everyone, you're amazing!

STAR WORKER!

In order to keep things as normal as possible, we'll be awarding a star worker certificate each week. This week, they go to:

IRIS in S&W: for putting in lots of effort with work at home. Miss Kirkham loved her castle, her hockey practice and her story about Elizabeth, the brave knight.

MORRIS in RB: for making sure he has a go at all the chilli challenges, even when at home!

EVA in HBr: She has been really kind & thoughtful sending Miss T messages throughout the week, even though she was feeling poorly. Also, she's worked hard and I know been helping out at home too.

Kyle in HBr: he's shown a real commitment to learning and completed all the tasks and more, largely on his own.

Sammy in Cfd: for showing a very resilient attitude towards his learning and has thought carefully about explanations in his shape work for Maths. Mrs J also loves his morning messages!

Striking a balance

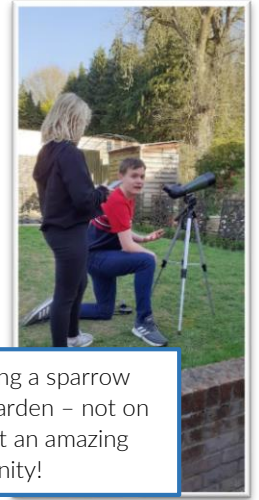
SO...as much as you're all getting to grips with the new online learning, so are the teachers and they've been unwittingly thrust into this and expected to provide learning daily on a system they don't know and are constantly testing the capabilities of – I think they've been amazing!

We wanted it to feel like school at least for the first week so that we could see what will be accessed and the levels children will work.

We've had feedback from families and held our first virtual staff meeting this week using Google Meet so have shared comments and experiences and we are now advising the following:

- Every child is required to complete the online daily register
- Every child should complete the following EVERY DAY:
 - Sprat & Winkle: Phonics
 - Year 1: Phonics & guided reading & maths
 - Years 2-6: Guided reading, maths & 1 other piece of work

Isla and James investigating a sparrow hawk that landed in their garden – not on any Google classroom but an amazing learning opportunity!



After that, please use your time as you see fit. Teachers may set more work than this but it really doesn't all have to be completed; if you'd rather bake bread or hunt for minibeasts, make dens, play hide and seek or do your daily exercise in the form of a bike ride then so be it. The things offered on Google classroom serve 2 purposes:

- 1) Keep your child in touch with learning otherwise it's going to be a rude wake up call when they have to come back
- 2) Meet the requirements of the curriculum
- 3) Give you some structure to the day – we figured this would be helpful.

All we ask is that your child doesn't sit in front of a computer game all day but with this beautiful weather, I think that's highly unlikely.

PRE-SCHOOL PARENTS: Key workers are putting ideas and questions on as a guide. If your child is happy playing with their toys, interacting with siblings who are home then go for it – our Tapestry posts are just a guide and things you might want to consider. That said, please do post pictures of what they're getting up to at home, we love to see them!

'marking work

Please don't feel that you have to send EVERY piece of work into us via Dojo – we're a bit swamped!

- If your child has been working on something they're really proud of it, post it!
- If they're stuck or you know they've got the wrong answers, post it.
- If you've worked with them, talked about their learning, don't post it.

Not all work is readable once photographed and putting it on Dojo means we can't really comment on it other than superficially.



Understanding it all from a child's perspective

This situation must be really challenging for children; one day they're in pre-school or school playing with their friends and then the next, there's no proper school, they have to do their learning remotely and they can't see their friends, let alone go near them!

Aimed primarily at our youngest pre-school and Year R children, if you would like us to message your children with a short video or answer some questions they have about the current situation, then please drop us a message via Dojo, Tapestry or Classroom and we'll come straight back to you.

We also really like these social stories, written for children with special educational needs but basically brilliant for any child to understand, at a simple level, what this is all about.



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